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Kennedy Said To Be Recalling Saigon CIA Man

Lodge Reported
to Want Official
Replaced

By MAX FRANKEL

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—President John F. Kennedy is reported to have recalled for consultation the head of the Central Intelligence Agency operations in South Viet Nam, presumably to end the CIA executive's policy dispute with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

Persons familiar with State Department operations in Saigon confirmed reports from there that Lodge had requested the replacement of the CIA chief, John H. Richardson. They doubted that Richardson would be sent back to Saigon.

Lodge's appeal for a new intelligence agent with new instructions was said to have been conveyed to the President by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. The Secretary, who visited Viet Nam with Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is believed to have endorsed the request.

The ambassador apparently complained that his own position as head of the American mission in Viet Nam was inconsistent with the separate operations of his intelligence chief. He was said to feel that a new man

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should be appointed and instructed to confine himself to the gathering and analysis of intelligence information.

Richardson, it has been reported from Saigon, not only gathered information but worked closely on operational matters with Ngo Dinh Nhu, the brother and most influential adviser of President Ngo Dinh Diem. Lodge's objections were said to center on Richardson's conception of his job, not with his performance. Published reports of a clash of personalities or insubordination have been denied here.

Broadly, the differences have arisen from different views about the attitudes that should be displayed toward repressive measures by the Saigon regime against the Buddhists. Some argue that nothing must be done to undermine the war against Communist-led guerrillas; others believe that the war cannot be won unless the Ngo Dinh family is forced to make political reforms.

The CIA has tended to believe in the closest possible co-operation with the Saigon government. Lodge and many officials of the State Department have favored a tougher position toward its domestic policies.

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